



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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February 1, 2019

Andrew Perez
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Dear Mr. Perez:

This is in response to your correspondence, received on January 17, 2019, in which you requested “[c]opies of all ‘Briefing Room’ materials exchanged between officials at the Wisconsin Department of Justice and individuals affiliated with the Rule of Law Defense Fund and the Republican Attorneys General Association, between June 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2018.” The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) construes your correspondence as a public records request pursuant to the Wisconsin Public Records Law, Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31 to 19.39.

We searched for records from June 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Our search for responsive records included a search of emails sent to or from former Attorney General Brad Schimel, former Deputy Attorney General Paul Connell, former Chief of Staff Delanie Breuer, former Director of Communications John Koremenos, former Solicitor General Misha Tseytlin, former Chief Deputy Solicitor General Ryan Walsh, and former Division of Legal Services Administrator David Meany. We searched using the following search terms and combinations: RAGA and briefing room, Republican Attorneys General Association and briefing room, RLDF and briefing room, Rule of Law Defense Fund and briefing room, and <https://rldf.box.com>. Additionally, we searched for emails sent between the above-mentioned individuals and @ruleoflawdefensefund.org or @republicanags.com using the search term: briefing room.

Our search for records returned no records responsive to your request. The public records law “does not require an authority to provide requested information if no record exists, or to simply answer questions about a topic of interest to the requester.” *Journal Times v. City of Racine Board of Police and Fire Commissioners*, 2015 WI 56, 55 (citation omitted); see also *State ex rel. Zinngrabe v. Sch. Dist. of Sevastopol*, 146 Wis. 2d 629, 431 N.W.2d 734 (Ct. App. 1988).

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.35(4)(b), if a determination denies a request, in whole or in part, it is subject to review by mandamus under Wis. Stat. § 19.37(1) or upon application to a district attorney or the Attorney General.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Ferguson
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Open Government

PMF:cks